

Small Public Water System Action Plan in Nevada – 1/20/17

Issue statement

Nevada will be implementing a voluntary statewide lead in school testing program that includes sampling, mitigation and public education.

Background

In response to the national issues involving lead in drinking water, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) secured U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Multi-Purpose grant funding in the amount of \$89,000. This project will achieve a greater understanding of the possible existence of lead in school drinking water. The Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) generally does not include schools in the sample pool as the LCR places a higher emphasis on single family homes. NDEP is undertaking a state-wide project for all 408 public schools, (including charter schools) with a Kindergarten or Pre-K program and will prioritize older and historic schools that may be more susceptible to the presence of lead. If testing indicates the presence of lead, a substantial portion of the project funding will provide resources to schools for replacement of water fountains or culinary faucets and fixtures. In the event of a larger problem, such as pipe replacement, schools will be referred to the USDA Rural Development for infrastructure funding assistance.

Project partners

NDEP will utilize existing staff to administer the project and will provide support to the school districts in creating appropriate public education materials, if lead is found. All 17 county school district superintendents, designated operators for the public water systems serving schools, and the USDA Rural Development are project partners.

Status:

The grant award was made September 29, 2016. Project period extends to September 20, 2018 or until the funds are expended. We are currently working with NDEP on a lead testing quality assurance and sampling plan (QAPP). Upon receipt and approval, school tap testing will commence.

Contact:

Kevin Ryan, Drinking Water Management Section (2-3806)

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